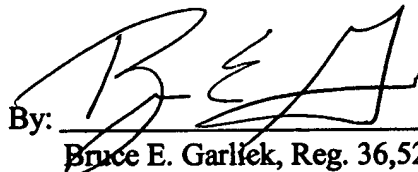## REMARKS

Claims 6-20 and 23-29 have been cancelled. Claim 21 has been amended to correct a typographical error. New claims 30-128 have been added. New claims 30-128 include similar independent claims 30, 48, 63, 81, 96, and 114. Further, each of these similar independent claims includes similar claims dependent there from. New claims 30-128 are consistent with method claims 1-6, 21, and 22.

Currently pending are claims 1-5, 21, 22, and 30-128. Attached hereto is a Fee Determination Sheet and a Credit Card Payment form for the additional claims fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 17, 2002

By: _____

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, has been amended as follows:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/223,111, filed August 3, 2000 and to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/224,055, filed August 9, 2000, both of which [is] are hereby incorporated by reference in [its] their entirety.

In the Abstract:

The Abstract on page 30 has been amended as follows:

ABSTRACT

Auto-negotiation with a communication partner includes downgrading a set of advertised communications capabilities, e.g., IEEE 802.3 capabilities, when a link with the communication partners fails to support an advertised communications capability, e.g., wire-speed. One operation includes: (1) advertising a first set of communications capabilities; (2) arriving at a first common set of communications capabilities based upon the first set of communications capabilities; (3) attempting to establish a link according to the first common set of communications capabilities; (4) failing to establish at link according to the first common set of communications capabilities; (5) downgrading the first set of communications capabilities to a second set of communications capabilities; (6) advertising the second set of communications capabilities; (6) arriving at a second common set of communications capabilities according to the second common set of

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communications capabilities; and (7) attempting to establish a link according to the second common set of communications capabilities.

[The present invention is directed to a method for auto-negotiation between two communications partners in a network. An initiating communications device advertises a first set of communications capabilities to a receiving device. The receiving device assesses whether it can communicate with the advertised set of capabilities. When the receiving device is unable to communicate with the first set of capabilities, a message is sent to the initiating communications device from the receiving device using standards based signaling techniques. The initiating device then downgrades its set of capabilities to a second set of capabilities and advertises the second set of capabilities to the receiving device. This process is continued until the two devices arrive at a highest common set of capabilities that they can use to communicate.]

In the Claims:

1.   Claims 6-20 and 23-29 have been cancelled.

2.   Claim 21 has been amended as follows:

21.   (Amended) A method for operating a pair of local area network devices to establish a link, the method comprising:

the pair of local area network devices determining a set of commonly supported operating parameters;

the pair of local area network devices attempting to establish a link according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters;

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when the attempt to establish the link according to the set of commonly supported operating parameters fails, the pair of local area network devices determining a reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters; and

the pair of local area network devices attempting to establish a link according to the reduced set of commonly supported operating parameters.

3.   New claims 30-128 have been added. The new text of these claims is provided above and is not provided here. Refer to above text for new text.